The compilation of a Municipal Manual has been begun and Government expect that it will be completed before long.

You ask for the free supply of lymph. The cost of lymph is very small; and under the Municipal Regulation it is the duty of the Municipalities to make provision for and maintain an adequate supply of lymph. The Councils are able to bear the burden of this small cost.

Regarding the transfer of control over travellers' bungalows, campsheds and rest houses, Government cannot accept your views.

From the G. O. that you quoted, it will be clear that, wherever there is real necessity for the Municipality to use tanks, Government are prepared to look into the question of transferring them under their control, so that I do not think there is any need for a general amendment as proposed.

The enactment of a Medical Registration Regulation is a matter which is engaging the attention of the Government.

As regards pensionary contributions, I may point out that, under the Municipal Regulation, you are bound to contribute towards the pension of any officer lent to the Municipality. In these circumstances, Government cannot accept your proposition.

With regard to the last point that you raised, I myself have no information. But I will consider your suggestions.

62. Local Self-Government in Travancore.

MR. V. CHACKO ABRAHAM (*Municipal Council, Kottayam*) spoke about the need for enhancing the activities of local self-government in the State. Local self-government in the State began in 1070 when the T. I. C. Regulation was passed and T. I. C's were constituted in the major towns. That Regulation was superseded by the Municipal Regulation, V of 1095, and Municipalities were created. But no rules for the proper working of the Regulation were passed. Model bye-laws were however issued under certain sections of the Regulation and the several Municipalities were functioning with varying degrees of success. In some Councils, the Presidents were not sufficiently educated or active so that their work was more or less shaped by the Municipal subordinates. Some of the members of some Councils were not men of status or education who could shoulder the responsibilities attached to their office. Due to the above and other causes, the working of the Municipalities had not attained that extent of efficiency that was desirable. The Secretariat could not adequately co-ordinate the work of the 19 Municipal Councils in the State. There was also lack of co-operation on the part of the Government in matters of municipal administration. Disputes between Municipal Councils and departmental heads were invariably decided in favour of the latter. It was therefore highly necessary to appoint an officer to supervise and control the work of the Councils and advise Government on municipal matters. In British India there was an I. C. S. officer to control municipal administration, besides an Inspector of Municipalities. The Village Panchayat Regulation was passed in 1100 with a view to educate the rural population in self-government. But the object was

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nullified as the Regulation had not yet been brought into effect although the Government had given an assurance in answer to resolutions brought into the Legislative Council, to bring it into effect at an early date. The people of Travancore were more educated and occupied economically a higher position than the people of the adjoining British Districts where Village Panchayats and Taluk and District Boards had already been formed. In the matter of construction of new roads, the people of Travancore were already co-operating with and actively helping the Government. Education, sanitation, control of irrigation works, etc., could also be safely entrusted to Village Panchayats, if formed. In all important Indian States, such Panchayats had already been formed and Travancore alone lagged behind in the matter. No further time should therefore be lost in bringing the Village Panchayat Regulation into operation.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abraham, you know that it has already been announced that a Bill for amending the Municipal Regulation is under contemplation ; and many of the suggestions that you made now for the better management of the Municipalities are likely to be embodied in the amending Bill or in the rules that may be passed under the Regulation as amended.

63. Certain urgent needs of Kottar.

MR. R. BHAGAVATHIPERUMAL CHETTIYAR (*Trading Classes, Kottar*) said that the existence of the cremation ground, the fish market and the drain running along the southern side of the local tobacco bankshall were a source of nuisance to the inhabitants of Kottar and detrimental to the sanitation of the town. The cremation ground and the fish market should therefore be removed outside the limits of the Kottar town. The drain also should be diverted along the western side of the Ezhava quarters and connected with the Parakkayan *kal*. The Nagercoil Municipal Council had already addressed the Government in the matter.

The Setu Lekshmi Bhai English High School should be raised to a First Grade College. That would be a great boon to the people of Nanjinad, Kalkulam, Eraniel, and other places who were put to much hardship and inconvenience owing to the absence of a college.

A new English Middle School should also be opened in the old English High School building at Kottar. The pupils of the middle school classes residing at Kottar were put to much difficulty and inconvenience in attending the school at Nagercoil. If the Government did not propose to open such a school, the old school building at Kottar might be handed over to the Nagercoil Municipality who were prepared to conduct a Middle School there with the co-operation of the inhabitants of Kottar.

Another request made by the member was that the surpluses in the Government treasuries might be deposited in local banks and lent to local merchants on proper security. The Government were already depositing their money in the Imperial Bank of India which was not in

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